

Shaker Church Family Dwelling House (Second)
(Shaker Church Family Second House)
W. side of Shaker Road, 1 mi. S. of
State Rt. 2A, approx. 2 mi. W. of
Worcester-Middlesex County line
Harvard
Worcester County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-810

HABS
MASS
14-HARV
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

SHAKER CHURCH FAMILY DWELLING HOUSE (SECOND)
(SHAKER CHURCH FAMILY SECOND HOUSE)HABS
MASS
14-HARV
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Location: West side of Shaker Road, 1 mile south of State Rt. 2A, approximately 2 miles west of Worcester-Middlesex County line, Harvard, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeBoalt

Present Use: Residence

Statement of Significance: This is a good example of an early Shaker dwelling house.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1795. There is a mention in the Shaker Journals of July 1, 1795; "Raized the 2nd House." The Shaker Journals are now located at the Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, Massachusetts.
2. Architect, builder and suppliers: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Harvard Shakers; the Shakers sold the property to Fiske Warren of Harvard, in 1918, who incorporated it into his single-tax Tahanto Enclave; it was then sold to Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Woodbury; Dr. and Mrs. Reyna bought the property from the Woodburys; it was then sold to William and Marjorie Voiers c. 1964; in 1969 Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeBoalt bought the property.
4. Alterations and additions: Some interior changes have been made to accomodate apartments during World War II under the Woodbury ownership. The roof was changed from a gambrel to a straight gable under Shaker ownership, probably around 1860.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The building is said to have been used as an infirmary by the Shakers at one time. It has also been mentioned as the locale of a lunar phenomenon observed by Solome Barret and Elvira Winchester about 1820 (Shaker Journals of 1851 now in the Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, Massachusetts).

C. Sources of Information:

This building appears on the plan of the Harvard First

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Family delineated by George Kendall in July, 1836. The original is at the Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, Massachusetts and a photocopy is included in the HABS collection at the Library of Congress. There is a photograph from 1916 by Clara Endicott Sears; the original is at the Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, Massachusetts.

Prepared by Bayard Underwood, AIA
Shakerton Foundation, Inc.
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